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TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UK](#) [JA](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: IRAN: FURTHER READOUT ON GHALIBAF VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: A. TOKYO 02954
[1](#)B. EMB LONDON 10/23 E-MAIL (GAYLE) TO NEA/IR

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard M. Mills, Jr for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Summary: Tehran Mayor and possible 2009 Iranian Presidential candidate Mohammad-Baqer Ghalibaf while on a mid-October visit to Tokyo
[1](#)2. (S/NF) Armed with timely readout from Embassy Tokyo (ref a) on Ghalibaf's October 16-19 meetings, Poloff discussed the visit with London-based
A Plausible Candidate -----

[1](#)3. (S/NF) The GOJ reportedly expects Ahmedinejad to win Iran's June 2009 election, but is nevertheless looking at Ghalibaf as an "impressive"

[1](#)4. (S/NF) Ghalibaf reportedly displayed no apparent English knowledge while in Japan, but Tamura noted to Poloff that Ghalibaf is a licensed

[1](#)5. (S/NF) While in Japan Ghalibaf was reportedly a refined, affable, highly polished guest and interlocutor, who deftly handled both tough and
Nuclear Issue: Rhetorical Tweaks? -----

[1](#)6. (S/NF) On nuclear issues, on which his senior GOJ hosts engaged fully (ref a), Ghalibaf reportedly at first went through his Islamic Reputation

[1](#)7. (S/NF) Ghalibaf, however, reportedly appeared to suggest (without spelling anything out) slight divergences, at least in tone, from IRI nuclear
-- Iran has no intention of relinquishing its "civil" nuclear program, as the regime has paid too high a price to get to this point; -- Iran is
-- Iran should make "further efforts" to earn the international community's trust.

Comment -----

[1](#)8. (S/NF) Following his Japan visit Ghalibaf can truthfully say he defended Iran's current nuclear policies, but may also feel positioned to
TUTTLE